

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2435

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS

1. EVENING TUESDAY, MARCH 25, FONMIN ESENBEL ASKED ME TO MEET HIM AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO REVIEW LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARD TO GETTING INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS RESTARTED. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WECKMAN WAS PRESSING DENKTASH TO AGREE TO A GENEVA LOCUS AND HE REPEATED THAT THIS WAS JUST AS UNACCEPTABLE TO TURKISH SIDE AS NEW YORK AND FOR THE SAME REASON, NAMELY ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE UN. HE REPEATED THAT EITHER ROME OR VIENNA (HE DID NOT MENTION TEHRAN THIS TIME) SHOULD BE AN AGREEABLE ALTERNATIVE AND HE ADDED IF FOR SOME REASON EITHER OF THESE TWO CITIES WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE THAT IT OUGHT TO BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SOME OTHER CAPITAL IN A "NEUTRAL COUNTRY". HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WANTED A LOCUS WHERE THERE WAS A CYPRIOT EMBASSY, BUT THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE TURKS BECAUSE THIS WOULD MEAN IT WOULD BE AT A PLACE WHERE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAD EMBASSY SUPPORT BUT THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH COMPARABLE SUPPORT FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY. HE SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP THE USG COULD GIVE TO GETTING THE LOCUS SETTLED IN SOME PLACE OTHER THAN IN THE CURRENTLY PROPOSED GENEVA.

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2. I INQUIRED IF THE TURKS WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE THE

INITIAL MEETING IN GENEVA AND THEN HAVE THE VENUE SHIFTED ELSEWHERE. ESENBEL REPLIED FIRMLY IN THE NEGATIVE, "JUST AS WE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO USE THE SAME FORMULA IN CONNECTION WITH NEW YORK."

3. NEXT ESENBEL REITERATED THAT IF THE GREEKS AND SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM UNDERSTOOD THAT WALDHEIM'S ROLE WAS TO BE LIMITED TO CONVOKING THE INITIAL MEETING, THAT DENKTASH COULD BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS "MORE OFTEN." I NOTED THAT ESENBEL HAD USED THE PHRASE "MORE OFTEN" IN THE SAME CONNECTION IN OUR LAST CONVERSATION. I ASKED WHAT PRECISELY HE HAD IN MIND WHEN HE USED THAT TERM, AND ESENBEL REPLIED THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING WE COULD TALK ABOUT AT A LATER TIME. I DID NOT PRESS THE MATTER FURTHER.

4. FINALLY, ESENBEL SAID THAT TO HELP IN THE SITUATION, THE TURKS WERE NOW RPT NOW WILLING, IF THE LOCUS AND SECRETARY GENERAL PROBLEMS COULD BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, TO RESUME THE TALKS ON THE 10TH OF APRIL, INSTEAD OF THE 1ST OF MAY OR THE 21ST OF APRIL AS HE HAD MENTIONED IN OUR LAST MEETING. HE SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION HE WOULD LIKE TO PROVE THE NEW YORK TIMES WRONG (REFERRING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL CHARGE THAT THE TURKS HAD BEEN STALLING). HE ALSO NOTED THAT I HAD EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT HIS PROPOSED MAY 1ST DATE IN OUR LAST MEETING. ESENBEL ADDED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT APRIL 10-13 WERE WALDHEIM'S ORIGINAL SUGGESTED DATES FOR RECONVENING THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS BUT THAT THESE DATES HAD INITIALLY BEEN DROPPED BECAUSE THIS WAS TOO EARLY FOR THE GREEK SIDE.

5. OUR MEETING ENDED WITH ESENBEL AGAIN URGING THAT THE USG DO WHAT WE COULD DO TO HELP GET AGREEMENT ON ROME OR VIENNA SITES.
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